



Miss Sue Pentz (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Portillo rehearse the marionettes before a first night.

## Marionette Maestro

WASHINGTON'S favorite clown, Frank Portillo, has neglected no possible way to amuse the children of the Nation's Capital. An accomplished ventriloquist and puppeteer, he is particularly proud of the latter talent, feeling that his marionettes, following a new scheme of body construction, are the most lifelike to cavort on a tiny stage.

Electrically-powered sanding machines now play their part in making the figures, but the age-old art of puppet manipulation remains the same, requiring steady nerves and infinite patience.

© Star Staff Photos.



Mr. Portillo shapes one of his puppets on a lathe in his workshop.



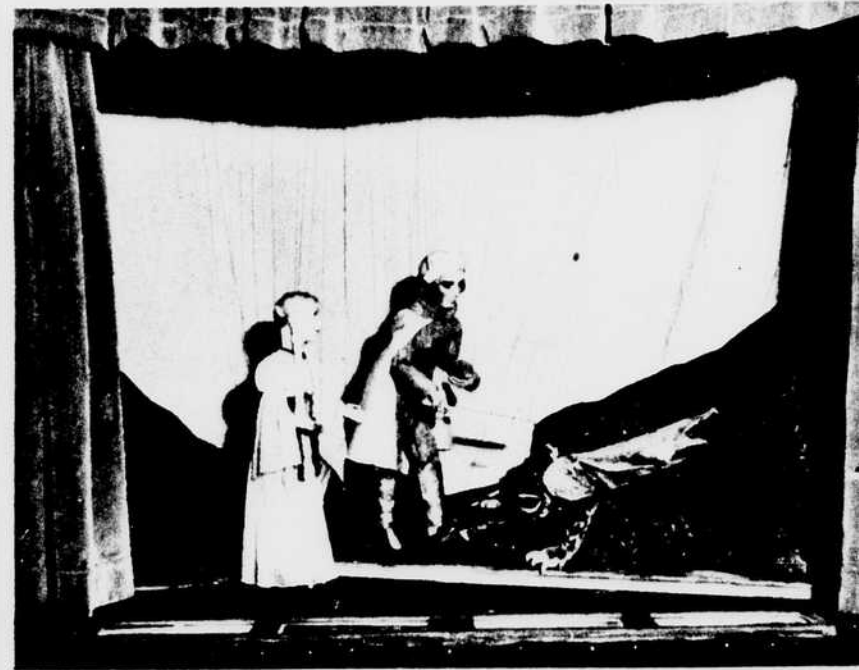
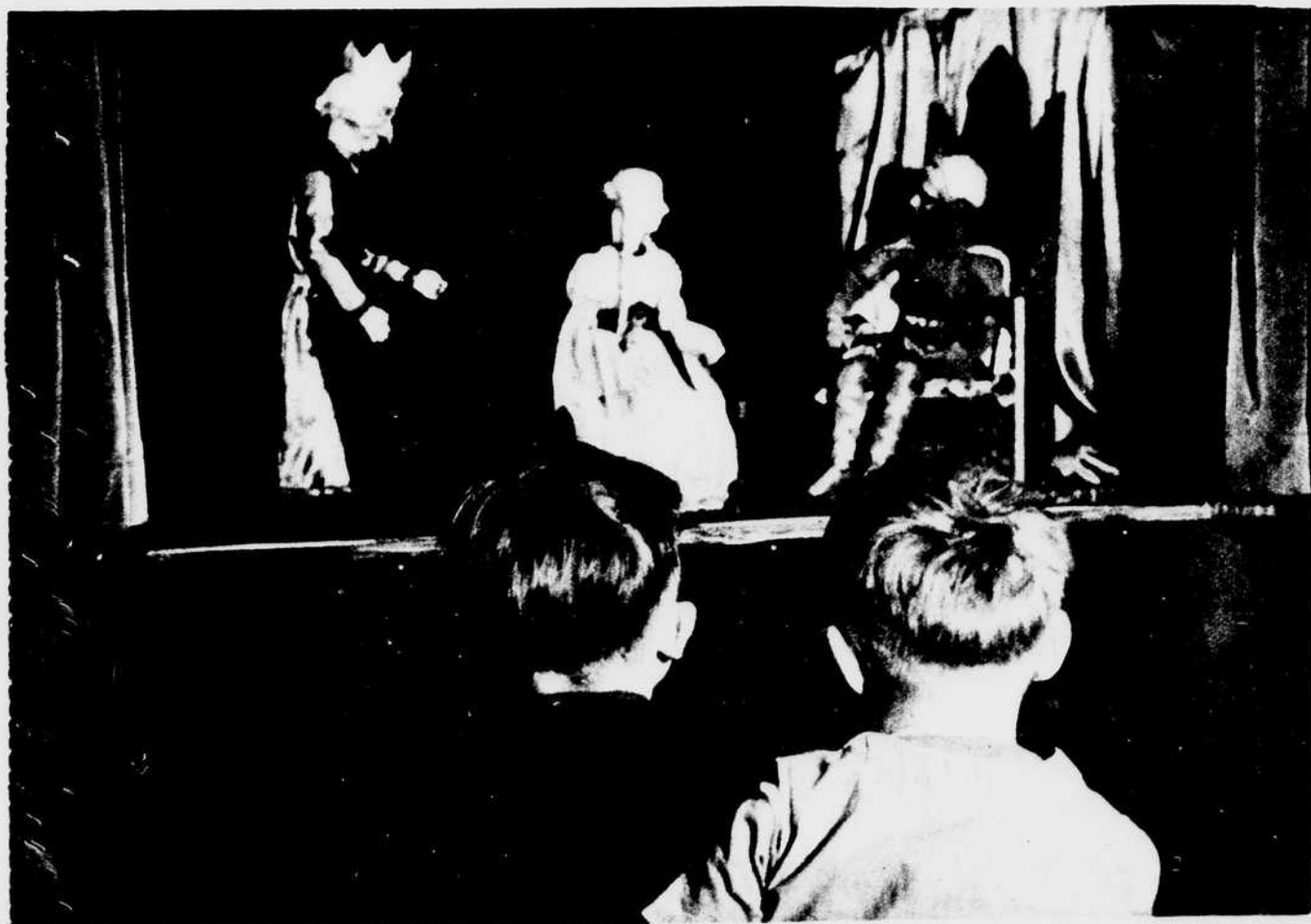
Introducing stars among the Portillo puppets—left to right: Blotto, famed juggler; Golden Dancer, the King and Mike.



Mrs. Portillo creates a clay model head, later to be cast in plaster with papier-mache or wood plastic pressed into the mold.



Clay heads dry out before the casting process is begun.



Left: Ancestors of the animated cartoons of Snow White, gifted marionettes delight their audiences today as they have for centuries.

St. George again rescues a princess from a dragon. Before his demise in each show the beast belches smoke continually.